

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A postage meter is provided with an authorized digital print head, for example an ink jet print head, for printing postage indicia on mail items. The print head is
5 operated by print data signals output by a microprocessor controlling operation of the postage meter. In order to prevent fraudulent printing of postage indicia by connecting an additional print head to be operated by the print data signals, the print data signals define an
10 indicium containing an indication that the indicium is invalid. The authorized print head is provided with control circuitry that is operative to prevent operation of the authorized print head by those print data signals representing the indication of invalidity so that the
15 authorized print head only prints a valid indicium whereas an unauthorized print head without the control circuitry prints indicia containing the indication of invalidity.

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